

FEB 18 2009

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FAX

February 18, 2009

To: Delores M. Nelson
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐
DATE: 18-Aug-2010

Re: FOIA requests F-2007-01622, F-2008-01077, F-2008-01309, F-2008-01698, F-2009-00003

Dear Ms. Nelson:

It has come to my attention that several FOIA requests submitted by the James Madison Project ("JMP") have been interpreted more narrowly than we intended due to our use of the word "internal" (as in "all internal Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") documents"). Please consider this letter our official clarification that the use of the word "internal" did *not* imply that we expected or gave permission for the CIA to limit its search to CIA-originated records or to exclude external correspondence. By "internal," we merely meant records that were currently under CIA control and nothing more.

If any Initial Review Authority is operating under this misapprehension when processing these requests, please correct that error and revise the scope of the search accordingly. Such an interpretation is inconsistent with the standard set by the D.C. Circuit that agencies have a duty to construe the subject material of FOIA requests *liberally* to ensure responsive records are not overlooked. See *Nation Magazine, Washington Bureau v. U.S. Customs Service*, 71 F.3d 885, 890 (D.C. Cir. 1995).

If you wish to discuss this notice, please do not hesitate to call me at 301-728-5908 or email me at Kel@JamesMadisonProject.org.

Kel McClanahan

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

James Madison, 1822